

South King County Projects Update

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South King County Traffic Closures This Week

Interstate 5

- The left lane of southbound I-5 between S. 336th St. and the Pierce County line will close nightly Monday through Thursday from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. for HOV lane construction.
- The left lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320th will close daily Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for HOV ramp and lane construction.
- **NEW:** Expect weeknight closures of the left lane of northbound I-5 between S. 320th and Military Road from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. through mid-November for HOV lane paving. Rain may postpone this work and the associated lane closure.
- Expect weekday shoulder closures on I-5 from S. 320th to the Pierce County line for electrical work.

Highway 18

- The left lane in each direction of Highway 18 near I-5 will be closed nightly Monday through Thursday from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. for bridge widening work.

Highway 161

- Expect weekday shoulder closures on Highway 161 between S. 360th and Milton Way while crews work to widen the highway.



New I-5 HOV Lane Paving Set to Begin this Week

Crews working on Sound Transit's [I-5 – South 317th HOV Direct Access Project](#) have been excavating and placing crushed rock as a base for new HOV lane pavement on northbound I-5 between S. 320th and Military Road. We've scheduled paving to begin this week, weather permitting. We're extending the northbound and southbound HOV lanes from their current end at Military Road to just south of S. 320th.

Last week crews cut and sealed joints in the new pavement on the northbound I-5 bridge over Military Road to prevent cracking. We've also finished excavating for the retaining wall between the northbound and southbound lanes at the north end of the HOV ramps, and are forming the footing for this wall. [View our latest construction photos.](#)

Contractor Spotlight: Icon Materials

Most of the workers on the construction site for the [I-5 HOV Widening Project](#) work for ICON Materials (a private contractor based in Tukwila), not WSDOT. WSDOT selected ICON to build this project because they offered the best value when we asked companies to competitively bid for the work.

ICON workers are currently excavating and grading the median for the new northbound and southbound HOV lanes and driving the trucks that move and haul away the dirt to get the median ready for paving. ICON crews also provide the traffic control for the project.

ICON currently has about 30 employees working on this project. These include seven truck drivers, eight heavy equipment operators, three engineers, and twelve general laborers. Many more ICON employees will join the project when median paving begins.

Crews Wrapping Up Highway 18 Truck Climbing Lane Project

Mostly minor work remains on the [project](#) now that the new westbound truck-climbing lane is open to traffic. One key remaining task is activating new traffic cameras and equipment to gather data for our congestion map on Highway 18 between I-5 and Highway 167. Drivers can expect to see these new commute-planning tools on our greater Seattle area [traffic page](#) in a couple of weeks. We expect to complete all work on the project by the middle of November.

Autumn Driving Tips

With daylight saving time ending this Sunday (Oct. 30), we'd like to remind drivers to be extra cautious when out on the road.

- **Watch for pedestrians** along school bus routes, intersections and transit stops and centers. Use extra caution when backing out of driveways and driving around in parking lots.
- **Slow down.** Posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- **Use your headlights.** Turn them on even in the middle of the day when it's raining or foggy.
- **Allow extra following distance.** Following too closely is one of the top causes of accidents in wet weather. You should allow more than four seconds between your vehicle and the one in front of you when the road is wet.
- **Brake carefully.** Look ahead while driving so you can anticipate the need to stop. Don't stomp on your brakes – the vehicle behind you may not be able to stop in time, and you can skid and lose control of your vehicle on a wet road.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to **AM 1520** to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.

About This E-mail

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested. To join our list, send an e-mail to lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov with "subscribe fedway-i5-317th-l" in the body of the e-mail. If you have any questions, contact Laura Johnson at JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov.